

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: OGAWA et al.

Serial No.

Filed: February 21, 2002

For: SEWAGE TREATMENT APPARATUS

Group:

Examiner: DOCKET: SHIG C10601EC

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-identified application, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. These references were cited in the International Search Report dated November 17, 2000 of the corresponding PCT patent application. Enclosed also is a copy of the International Search Report. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR §1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR §1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

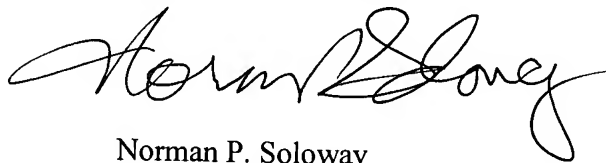
HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701

TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX 520.882.7643

In compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a copy of the Search Report by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

We believe that there are no fees involved with this information disclosure statement. However, in the event there are any fees payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 24, 315

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING STREET
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701

TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX 520.882.7643